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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of

Neal B. Gittleman

Art Unit :3732

Serial no.: 10/034,538

Confirmation No. 1429

Filing date: 12/26/2001

Examiner of Application: Cary E. O'Conner

Expandable Dental Implant Apparatus

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Response to Office Action of 12 Sept 2004.

Sir:

The rejection of Claim 10 based on 35 USC sec. 103(a) for being unpatentable over Hobo 6,227,880 in view of Choung 6,332,778 for reasons of obviousness is answered as follows: Hobo consistently refers to the cylindrical shape of his implants. He does not intimate the existence of any other shape. He is placing his implant in a cylindrical bore in the jawbone.

Choung offers an apical expansion design expanding at least two legs with an internal nut riding against an inner, parabolic shaped wall with narrowing sides. In several of his embodiments, he intends the implant to be installed in the socket of an extracted tooth. His implant is shown to be generally tapered in shape. Driving the inner nut downward forces the slotted portion of the apical end of the implant outward to lock in with an optional apical cap 50. The cap is removed